**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection; and

operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means, wherein said inspection program set is automatically selected from among a plurality of inspection programs based on the type of inspection input,

wherein said operation guiding means comprises means, including said inspection program, for guiding, when a presence inspection to inspect presence of a predetermined character at a particular position of said product to be inspected is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, an operation of specifying an inspection method including options of shape, size, and brightness.

19. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said operation guiding means guides an operation of specifying an image range that becomes a subject of said presence inspection, after said presence inspection is input as said type of inspection and before guiding an operation of specifying an inspection method.

20. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection; and

operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means, wherein said inspection program set is automatically selected from among a plurality of inspection programs based on the type of inspection input,

wherein said operation guiding means comprises means, including said inspection program, for guiding, when a conformance inspection to inspect whether the type of said product to be inspected matches a preregistered product is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, an operation of specifying an inspection method including options of shape, size, number of lines, and brightness.

21. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said operation guiding means guides an operation of specifying an image range that becomes a subject of said conformance inspection after guiding an operation of specifying an inspection method.

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection; and

operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means, wherein said inspection program set is automatically selected from among a plurality of inspection programs based on the type of inspection input,

wherein said operation guiding means comprises means, including said inspection program, for guiding, when an orientation inspection to inspect whether a direction or front/back side of said product to be inspected is proper or not is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, an operation of specifying an inspection method including options of shape, size, number of lines, and brightness.

23. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said operation guiding means guides an operation of specifying an image range that becomes a subject of said orientation inspection, after guiding an operation of specifying an inspection method.

24. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection, and

operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means, wherein said inspection program set is automatically selected from among a plurality of inspection programs based on the type of inspection input,

wherein said operation guiding means comprises range specify guiding means, including said inspection program, for guiding, when a position inspection to inspect whether a position of a character specified in said product to be inspected is within a proper range or not is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, an operation of specifying the position subjected to inspection, and specifying said proper range.

25. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said range specify guiding means guides an operation of specifying a magnification for correspondence between a dimension in an image and actual dimension to specify said proper range in said actual dimension.

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection, and operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means, wherein said inspection

program set is automatically selected from among a plurality of inspection programs based on the type of inspection input,

wherein said operation guiding means including said inspection program comprises 2 point specify guiding means for guiding, when a dimension inspection to inspect whether a position relation or distance between two points specified at said product to be inspected is within a proper range is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, an operation of specifying a position of said two points and specifying said proper range, and

wherein said 2 point specify guiding means comprises means for guiding an operation of specifying a magnification for correspondence between a dimension in an image and an actual dimension to specify said proper range in said actual dimension.

27. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection, and operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means,

wherein said operation guiding means comprises means for guiding, when a chip and burr inspection to inspect absence of improper chip or burr at an outer circumferential edge of said product to be inspected is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, an operation of specifying a type of graphical shape to specify an inspection range from options of a line, circle and arc.

28. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for performing, using a reference image, a set process for inspecting an input image of a product to be inspected, comprising:

inspection type inputting means for inputting a type of inspection, and

operation guiding means for guiding an operation required to set an inspection program suitable for said type of inspection input by said inspection type inputting means,

wherein said inspection program set is automatically selected from among a plurality of inspection programs based on the type of inspection input,

wherein said operation guiding means comprises means, including said inspection program, for guiding, when a surface defect inspection to inspect absence of visual defect in a specified range of said product to be inspected is input as said type of inspection by said inspection type inputting means, guiding an operation of specifying an image range that becomes a subject of inspection.